providing an insulating material onto said first plate to cover at least a portion of said first plate;

compacting at least a portion of said insulating material; and

connecting said edge region of said first plate to said edge region of said second plate such that said insulating material is positioned between said first and second plate.

30. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the form of said insulating material is selected from the group consisting of powder and flakes.

31. ~~(NEW)~~ A method as recited ~~in claim~~ 29, wherein said first and second plates are connected at said end regions by a connection selected from at least one of the group consisting of a positive connection and a non-positive connection.

32. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said insulating material is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of mica, expanded graphite, perlite, and a mica decomposition.

33. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said insulating material includes a filler.

34. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said compacting of said insulating material is achieved by movement of said second plate towards said first plate.

35. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said compacting of said insulating material is carried out by a pressing tool in at least one pressing movement.

36. (NEW) A method as in recited in claim 29, including the step of applying additional insulating material onto at least regions of said first plate and the previously compacted insulating material; and compacting said additional insulating material.

37. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said insulating material that is not compacted is removed.

38. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said insulating material is applied substantially evenly on said first plate.

39. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said insulating material is provided on said first plate in the shape of a cone; and wherein said compacting of said insulating material distributes said insulating material on said first plate.

40. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said first plate is partially deformed prior to providing said insulating material.

41. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 40, wherein said first plate is at least partially deformed in the shape of a trough.

42. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 39, wherein an inorganic binding material is applied to said first plate prior to providing said insulating material.

43. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein at least one of said plates includes a surface formation to facilitate the distribution of said insulating material upon compaction.

44. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein said second plate is at least partially flanged to said edge of said first plate.

45. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the compacting of said insulating material is controlled so that the space between said first and second plates that is not used to physically connect said plates is completely covered with insulating material.

46. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the heat shield is three-dimensionally deformed after said first and second plates are connected.

47. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, wherein at least a portion of said first plate is electrostatically charged prior to the application of said insulating material and said insulating material applied to the non-charged portion of said first plate is removed prior to compaction.

48. (NEW) A method as recited in claim 29, including the step of removing a portion of said insulating material from said first plate with a tool that is electrostatically charged in certain regions.

49. (NEW) A heat shield suitable for use in motor vehicles comprising:

a first plate that is at least partially plastically deformable;

a second plate that is at least partially plastically deformable; and

an insulating material;

wherein said first plate is connected to said second plate and said insulating material is positioned between said first plate and said second plate.

50. (NEW) A heat shield as recited in claim 49, wherein said insulating material is comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of mica, expanded graphite, perlite, and a mica decomposition product.

51. (NEW) A heat shield as recited in claim 49, wherein said insulating material is in a form selected from the group consisting or powder and flakes.

52. (NEW) A heat shield as recited in claim 49, wherein at least one of said first and second plates is comprised of metal.

53. (NEW) A heat shield as recited in claim 49, wherein at least one of said first and second plates includes a surface deformation.

54. (NEW) A heat shield as recited in claim 53, wherein said surface deformation includes a deformation selected from the group consisting of bulges, beads, or webs.

55. (NEW) A heat shield as recited in claim 49, wherein at least one of said first and second plates has a surface with increased roughness as compared to a corresponding surface of said other plate.

56. (NEW) A heat shield as recited in claim 49, wherein at least one of said first and second plates includes a surface that is coated with a material that reflects radiated heat.

57. (NEW) A heat shield as recited in claim 56, wherein the plate positioned on the side of the heat shield that is remote from the radiated heat includes a modification selected from the group of modifications consisting of (a) increased thickness, (b) the inclusion of one or more ribs, and (c) the inclusion of a material having good heat-conducting capacity.